AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An optical film composed of a thermoplastic resin film obtained by using a melt extruding machine, wherein:

said thermoplastic resin film is an alicyclic structure-containing polymer which satisfies a relation of the formula $[\sin^2 2\alpha] \times [\sin^2 (\pi \cdot Re/550)] \leq 3.4 \times 10^{-5}$ ~~below~~ over the whole surface of the film when an angle made by the extruding direction of the thermoplastic resin film from the melt extruding machine and a slow phase axis at each point is α, and a retardation amount at each point is Re,

wherein said α and Re are measured at 20 points at every 500 mm over 10 m in the film length direction and at 5 points at regular intervals over 490 mm in the width direction and wherein a value of said Re is 2 nm or less ~~$[\sin^2 2\alpha] \times [\sin^2 (\pi \cdot Re/550)] \leq 3.4 \times 10^{-5}$~~.

2. (cancelled).

3. (cancelled).

4. (withdrawn) A production method of an optical film composed of a thermoplastic resin film, including a step of cooling a molten thermoplastic resin extruded from an extruding machine by making it successively circumscribed with a first cooling drum, a second cooling drum and a third cooling drum:

wherein, when assuming that rotation speed of said third cooling drum is R_3 (m/min.), and rotation speed of said second cooling drum is R_2 (m/min.), a ratio of the R_3 and R_2 (R_3/R_2) is made to be 0.990 or more but less than 0.999 to cool said thermoplastic resin.

5. (withdrawn) The production method of an optical film as set forth in claim 4,

wherein, when assuming a resin contact time in said first cooling drum is t_1 (sec.), a temperature when said thermoplastic resin moves away from said first cooling drum is Tp_1 (°C), and a glass transition temperature of said thermoplastic resin is Tg (°C), $t_1 \times (Tp_1 - Tg)$ (unit: sec.·deg) is made to be -50 or higher and 20 or lower to cool said thermoplastic resin.

6. (withdrawn) The production method of an optical film as set forth in claim 4,

wherein, when assuming that rotation speed of said first cooling drum is R_1 (m/min.), a ratio of the R_2 and R_1 (R_2/R_1) is made to be 0.990 or more but less than 1.01 to cool said thermoplastic resin.

7. (withdrawn) The production method of an optical film as set forth in claim 4,

wherein, when assuming that a temperature when said thermoplastic resin moves away from said third cooling drum is Tp_3 (°C), the Tp_3 is made to be a lower temperature than said Tg by 50 to 100°C to cool said thermoplastic resin.

8. (withdrawn) The production method of an optical film as set forth in claim 4,

wherein, when assuming that a temperature when said thermoplastic resin moves away from said second cooling drum is Tp_2 (°C), the Tp_2 is made to be a lower temperature than said Tg by 0 to 60°C to cool said thermoplastic resin.

9. (withdrawn) The production method of an optical film as set forth in claim 4,

wherein, a temperature difference of said first cooling drum and said second cooling drum is made to be 20°C or less to cool said thermoplastic resin.

10. (previously presented) A protective film of a polarizer composed of the optical film as set forth in claim 1.

11. (previously presented) A polarizing film having a polarizer and a protective film as set forth in claim 10 stacked on one surface or both surfaces of the polarizer via an adhesive layer.

12. (previously presented) A phase difference film obtained by performing stretch processing on the optical film as set forth in claim 1.

13. (cancelled).

14. (previously presented) The optical film as set forth in claim 1, wherein said optical film is yet to be stretched.